

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 7749

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, IN

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON INDIANS FOR TREASURY SECRETARY
SIMON'S VISIT

REF: STATE 066841

1. RE QUESTION POSED FIRST SENTENCE, PARA 4, REFTEL, K.K. BIRLA IS PRESIDENT OF FICCI UNTIL ITS NEXT ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 25, 1975. FICCI SEC GEN G.L. BANSAL BEING REPLACED BY P. CHENTSAL RAO IN EARLY APRIL. HARISH MAHINDRA WILL REMAIN PRESIDENT OF IACC UNTIL ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 18, 1975 AT WHICH SECRETARY WILL SPEAK. MAHINDRA'S SUCCESSOR NOT YET NAMED. IACC SEC GEN RAMU PANDIT HAS ALREADY LEFT BUT WILL CONTINUE TO ACT INFORMALLY UNTIL ELECTION NEW PRESIDENT APRIL 18. WE ARE NOT PLANNING ANY NON-GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS IN NEW DELHI, ALTHOUGH WIDE RANGE OF INDIVIDUALS, PROBABLY INCLUDING PEOPLE FROM FICCI, WILL BE INCLUDED IN SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

2. RE QUESTION POSED SECOND SENTENCE, PARA 4, REFTEL, WE BELIEVE THAT LIST OF PERSONS MENTIONED PARA 2, REFTEL, OMITTS SOME OFFICIALS THAT SECRETARY SIMON LIKELY COME INTO CONTACT WITH WHILE IN DELHI. THESE ARE CABINET SECRETARY B.D. PANDE (WHO IS RUMORED TO SUCCEED JAGGANATHAN AS GOVERNOR OF RBI) AND FOLLOWING FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS: FINANCE SECRETARY H.N. RAY; ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS M. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NARASIMHAN; CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER MANMOHAN SINGH, AND HOINT

SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES
J.S. BAIJAL. CONGEN BOMBAY WILL COMMENT ON RBI OFFICIALS
AND PROVIDE BIO DATA REQUESTED PARA 5, REFTEL.

3. FOLLOWING IS WHAT WE HAVE AVAILABLE ON BIPINPAL DAS,
DEPUTY MINISTER, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: MR. DAS,
51, WAS APPOINTED TO HIS PRESNET POSITION IN THE MINISTRY
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN OCTOBER,
1974. HIS ONLY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN DIPLOMACY WAS AS A MEMBER OF
THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1971.
DAS IS ONE OF THE FEW NEW FACES IN MRS. GANDHI'S CABINET OF
MINISTERS. HE JOINED THE CONGRESS PARTY IN THE EARLY 1960S
AFTER A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY. DAS IS
RESPECTED FOR HIS COMPETENCE, INDUSTRIOUSNESS AND INTELLIGENCE.
LIKE MANY EX-SOCIALISTS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE CONGRESS PARTY,
HE IS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE IS A FORCEFUL SPEAKER FOR GOI
POLICIES IN PARLIAMENT.
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